

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





Catalogue

# STRAWBERRY PLANT CATALOGUE

AND PRICE LIST, 1912.

J. G. PRESTAGE & CO., ALLEGAN, MICH.



**T**HIS catalogue is not large, showy, overdrawn, nor expensive, and for that reason excessively high prices are prevented and we are able to sell as good plants as are obtainable, at a much more reasonable price than those who desire to deceive by **show and many words.**

All plants are grown by ourselves and have been inspected by the State Horticultural authorities, and are free from all fungi, root-rot, blight, or other disease or degeneracy. Plants are **guaranteed** to be the equal of those of any nursery that asks higher prices, and to produce as many or as good berries as any plants offered to the public, whether having "selected", "thoroughbred", "pedigreed", or any other claims of superiority.

## GREETING, 1912.

This is a New Year, and with it naturally comes many changes, and all, we believe, for the general welfare. To our old and regular customers we wish to say: It is to your satisfaction and general good-will that we owe our success in the past, which success is a firm and solid base for the increase of friends, and likewise our business. **To our new friends, and to all whom this small catalogue may come,** we wish that you may become one of our customers. In looking over our catalogue please remember that "The proof of the pudding is in the eating." If you are satisfied with prices, plants, and past treatment from the sources from which you have ordered plants, very well; but if you wish to look or try further, please do not overlook us, but give us, at least, a part of your order as a **trial order.** We shall use all pains and endeavor to satisfy you; and bear in mind that we are in the business with an aim for ourselves, and likewise **one for our patrons, old and new.** Our aim is to be of use to our fellow-men, in both a financial and reciprocal way, and to increase our business only to that measure in which we can give greater satisfaction, friendship, and more quality for your money than you can get from any other source. Thank you, Old and New Friends and Customers,

past and present; for with you and ourselves depends our future.

Sincerely Yours,

J. G. PRESTAGE.

Remember Prestage's Plants  
have prestige.

**Plants** will be sorted, bunched, and packed for shipment in a manner that insures their safe arrival in good growing condition in any part of the United States, Mexico or Canada.

Trans-oceanic shipments receive extra care and packing for one and one-third price quoted in catalogue.

**Terms of Sale.**—Cash with order only. Send money by post office order, registered letter, check, or draft.

**Order Early.**—You see this term, "Order Early", placarded in every catalogue, but stop and reason a moment and it will be obvious why it saves us time and trouble and insures you the varieties you desire, as well as other advantages that are lost if one orders with the general spring rush of business. We agree to fill all orders as long as our stock holds out, but reserve the right to reject, for proper cause, any or all orders.

**Set Northern Grown Plants.**—They, as well as northern-grown seeds, and potatoes, are preferable to those grown a few degrees farther south. They are earlier, more vigorous, and hardy, and the setting of northern-grown Michigan plants from the Great Michigan Fruit Belt gains in popularity each year, as every trial proves more absolutely that **Northern grown plants and seeds are best.**

Our stock is healthy, vigorous, and well-rooted, and was grown on **good soil**, not poor pine blow sand, as some plants are.

**Shipping Facilities.**—We can ship over several different railways, from several different shipping points; and consequently through several different express companies. We are located but a few hours from Chicago which insures a quick and efficient transfer for all southern or western orders.



**References**—First National Bank and First State Bank of Allegan, People's Bank of Bloomingdale, or any business firm of Allegan or Bloomingdale.

**Plants by Mail** if desired, but include 10c per 50, 20c per 100, for purchaser must pay postage, express, and freight.

**Plants by Express** are shipped cheaper than ordinary express matter. Remember this, when calling for plants at express office. Express is the general way of shipping plants.

**Large orders** for near shipment can be shipped very safely by freight, but at purchaser's risk.

**Packing** is done in the best possible manner to insure lightness of package and an efficient packing, in baskets and crates, using plenty of damp moss. No extra charges for careful packing or package.

**Claims**—Must be made immediately, in order that we can investigate the causes for poor arrival, because all plants leave our hands and premises in excellent condition.

**Care** is taken that all plants shall be true to name, and hold ourselves ready, upon proper proof, to refund money or replace any that may prove otherwise. It is mutually agreed, however, that we shall not be liable for a greater sum than the purchase price of stock bought.

**Substituting**—When late in the season when stock is running low and some varieties are becoming exhausted it becomes necessary either to substitute or refund money. Therefore, when stock of certain varieties becomes exhausted we hold the right to substitute, unless otherwise directed; but we try to not substitute until parties have been written for a second choice. In substituting, discretion is used, and quality as well as worth of money is never neglected. Where it is necessary to substitute we always give a variety of more value rather than of less; and should the price be less than variety ordered, we put in more plants to make good any discrepancy. We are sure that our method of fair dealing will suit you in case of necessary substitution.

**Testimonials**—On another page we give a few testimonials. Read them. We have room for only a few. Write them, should you desire (enclose stamp for reply). Full address is given, as we want you to reach each individual; and so we do not give flaring praise with blank addresses, and write that you must write us if you desire full address. We want you, or any nurseryman or other interested person, to reach them. They are our satisfied customers and will do all they can to tell you how they were used by us.

**Caution**—Strawberries are enjoyed, probably, more than any other small fruit; yet we feel, and do not hesitate in expressing our opinion, that too many people are not particular enough in procuring plants for setting that are free from disease and degeneracy or have not run out. We hope that for the trifling cost of a few good plants that you will not dig them promiscuously from old, run-out beds. Too many people do this and wonder why they do not have more or finer ber-

ries. Thus some lose their chances of paying returns. Insist that, wherever or from whom you buy plants, you get a certificate of nursery inspection. **It will pay you.** A copy of the inspection certificate, as given below, goes with every order we fill:

## State Certificate of Nursery Inspection No. 1129.

(Duplicate) This is to certify that I have examined the nursery stock of J. G. Prestage & Co., of Allegan, Michigan, and find it apparently free from dangerous insects and dangerously contagious tree and plant diseases. This certificate to be void after July 31, 1912.

(Signed) L. R. TAFT,  
State Inspector of Nurseries and Orchards, Agricultural College, East Lansing, Michigan, November 4, 1911.

In our descriptions we do not aim to over-describe, which we know is a bad mistake.

## Varieties.

**Aroma. (S.)**—A very late variety, nearly as late as Gandy; fruit large, roundish, of a glossy red, of excellent quality and one of the most productive late varieties; suited to a great variety of soils, whether south, north, east, or west; does well everywhere; fine, healthy foliage; a favorite in southwest; a good pollinizer for late or medium-late varieties. By some it is called a medium-late variety. It gets its name from the aroma or delicious flavor and scent, which makes it a winner everywhere. A profitable berry.

Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Warfield (P)**—An old, well-known medium early berry that is among all commercial collections and without doubt the most popular canning berry grown. It is an all-around berry for table, market, canning and shipping. Vines should not be let to get too thick, and by adding stable manure or fertilizer the berries will be of splendid size. Too well known to need a lengthy description.

Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.

**Sample (P)**—One of the best medium-late to late varieties. Some consider it the best late berry. A good cropper of good-sized berries. Foliage healthy, makes about the right number of plants; sells well on the market; a good canner and shipper; gains in popularity among all fancy growers. Price 100 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Gandy (S)**—A reliable, large, late berry, probably the latest grown. The plant is a strong grower and a fair plant-maker; fruit is roundish, firm, an excellent shipper. In some soils Gandy is not so productive as in others; prefers gravelly loam to clay loam, but have seen fine Gandy on poor soil. No commercial or home-market grower should, or can afford to, be without Gandy. We have the largest supply we have ever grown. Price is most reasonable. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.25.

**Brandywine (S)**—Broad, heavy, dark green foliage; plants vigorous and



very productive; a good pollenizer for (P) varieties; very firm, and one of the best shippers grown. Berries medium red, large, and of good flavor; ripens medium to late; does best on gravel or clay loam. We can recommend it as one of the very best. Dependable. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Norwood (S)**—Claimed to be the largest berry grown; makes few plants, but those made are large and healthy; berries are conical in shape and of excellent quality; requires rich soil. Finding many friends. Price—75c per 100; 500, \$2; 1,000, \$3.50.

**Senator Dunlap (S)**—One of the most popular varieties grown and one of the best; splendid for home use; for canning, for which it excels; near or distant markets; worthy of high praise; well known; a vigorous grower. Many as good, but none better. Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25, 1,000, \$2.25.

**Pride of Michigan (Kellogg's (S))**—A new variety of much merit; real late; very large; very productive; berry is firm, of good color, a fine canner and an excellent shipper; a strong, vigorous grower; makes enough plants to insure a berry of good size; everyone likes it. Price — 100, 75c; — 500, \$1.65; — 1,000, \$3.25.

**Parsons Beauty (S)** — Medium to late; dark red in color; claimed that none will out-yield it; foliage dark green; resembles Bubach. Price — 100, 75c; — 500, \$1.50; — 1,000, \$3.

**Morning Star (P)** — Early, a few days later than Excelsior; productive of large berries of rich crimson color; a strong robust grower. Desirable. Price — 100, 50c; — 500, \$1.25; — 1,000, \$2.50.

**Abington (S)** — Very much like Bubach, and with many is taking its place; superior to Bubach in some ways; resembles it closely; very good. Price — 100, 60c; — 500, \$1.40; — 1,000, \$2.80.

**Fairfield (S)**—Early; of fine size for an early berry; mild, delicious flavor; plant a strong grower and healthy; resembles Haverland. Price — 100, 60c; — 500, \$1.25; — 1,000, \$2.50.

**Blaine (S)** — A new variety from Iowa; somewhat resembles Gandy in plant and berry; a good shipper; ripens with Aroma; a growing favorite. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Mayflower (S)** — Claimed to be the earliest grown; comes from Ohio; an improvement over Excelsior; fine flavor; have never fruited this variety, but it comes most highly recommended as a vigorous grower; very productive. Price — 100, 40c; — 500, \$1.25; — 1,000, \$2.50.

**Greenville (P)** — An excellent variety. Late, productive; berries large, bright crimson; foliage beautiful dark green; one of the very best for home use. Price — 100, 50c; — 500, \$1.25; — 1,000, \$2.50.

**Buster (P)** — An exceedingly robust grower; large foliage; heavy plant maker; one of the most productive; berries large and conical; — fine flavor — Price — 100, 60c; — 500, \$1.50; — 1,000, \$3.

**Michigan (S)** — Late, vigorous, healthy; stands drouth; firm; good

shippers; productive. Price — 100, 60c; — 500, \$1.50; — 1,000, \$3.

**Stevan's Late Champion (S)** — In some localities later than Gandy; comes from New Jersey where it is most highly praised; better quality than Gandy; fine flavor, bright color. Price—100, 75c; 500, \$1.75; 1,000, \$3.25.

**Dickey (S)** — Medium to late; foliage light green but large and vigorous; fruit is of good size; deep red color; firm; fair cropper; excellent shipper. Price — 100, 50c; — 500, \$1.25; — 1,000, \$2.50.

**New York (S)**—Medium to late; large and of fine color; foliage large, healthy, and robust; requires rich soil, but a profitable variety for home or fancy trade. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$2.75.

**Jesse (S)**—One of the old standard varieties; berry large, bright colored, of good quality; firm and a good cropper; perfect blossoms and a good fertilizer for imperfect varieties. Always well liked. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Haverland (P)**—One of the best medium early varieties; large berry, of fine flavor; vines are healthy and vigorous in growth, making a well-matted row; berries are grouped in great clusters, which shows them off well on vines; well known; a general favorite for all purposes. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Uncle Jim (or Dornan) (S)**—One of the very best of the newer varieties; vines are vigorous and healthy, fruit large and captivating, but possesses the best berry qualities; medium to late. It is a general favorite for a fancy market, liked by everyone, and will make you money. Needs rich soil. We have a large supply. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Miller (S)**—A large, bright red berry, very productive; one of the very best for home use or near market; vines robust and healthy; makes many plants; delicious flavor. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Pride of Michigan (Baldwin's (S))**—Medium early; by some it is claimed to be one of the best grown; vigorous grower; good yielder of dark red berries; fruit is firm; a good canner and an excellent shipper. A decidedly different berry from Kellogg's Pride of Michigan, and introduced by different people. Both are liked wherever grown. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Parker Earle (S)**—A well known variety of the late sort; makes few plants, but those made are thrifty and vigorous; a very productive sort, but plants should be set not over one foot apart to insure a good, thick row; a fine variety for hill culture; berries are from conical to wedge shape; inclined to bluntness; requires rich soil; more extensively planted than formerly. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Highland (P)**—One of the very best of recent introduction. Ohio Experiment Station says that it has been the most continuous, surest and heaviest yielder of 150 varieties for the past three seasons; fruit is of good size, conical in shape, bright red in color;



very firm, and a good shipper. One of the best large sorts for home market or shipping purposes; medium early; will stand more bad weather at time of ripening than any other variety. Vines are large, vigorous, and rapid growers and very attractive. It provided a very desirable variety and is finding many friends in this locality, and in fact wherever we hear from it. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.60; 1,000, \$3.20.

**St. Louis** (S)—This has been highly praised, and has many friends; claimed to be a decided improvement over Early Michel, but did not last year quite satisfy us. However, it still grows in favor, and the demand for plants increases each season. Early, fair producer, and delicious. Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Ridgeway** (S)—Season late; plants large and stocky; makes large number of runners and young plants; leaf is large, broad, heavy, and dark green. A good pollinizer for pistillate varieties. Berry is large, nearly round, crimson color; firm and a long-distance shipper; quality is good; commands good prices; a favorite with canning factories and everyone desiring an excellent canner of the late sorts. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.40; 1,000, \$2.80.

**Kitty Rice or Downing's Bride** (P)—One of the most handsome strawberries grown; berries are of dark blood-red nearly to the center; one of the most productive medium-to-late varieties; very firm, and a good shipper; does well in nearly all climates and soils; foliage is healthy but sparse, though enough young plants are set to make a good row. This variety is sure to please. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.40; 1,000, \$2.80.

**Virginia** (P)—Extra early. The plant is a very deep rooter; vigorous grower; foliage is of a bright green color; the berry is rich in color and flavor; slightly acid or tart; very large for so early a variety; exceedingly conical in shape; fruit is held well up, from the ground. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Wolverton** (S)—A large crimson berry of excellent flavor; colors well; one of the best all around berries on the market, and especially for home use; vines are vigorous and make a desirable number of plants; size is good for medium early sort; satisfies all. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Ryckman** (S)—This variety ranks among the very largest, and is as good as it is large; a remarkably heavy grower and drouth-resister; quality is good; color is inclined to be a little bright, yet it is a very desirable canner; medium early to medium late. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Longfellow** (S)—Medium early to late; one of the best pollinizers ever introduced, as its exceedingly heavy load of blossoms begin early and keep in bloom with most of the late varieties; vines are very robust and stalky, though not so numerous as one would think necessary to yield so heavy crops as Longfellow produces. Its name signifies the shape of the berry. Of the very best flavor and color. We prefer it to several of our now recognized

leaders. One of our surest croppers. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Enhance** (S)—Medium to late; very firm and a good shipper; good flavor, color, and yield; vines are healthy and beautiful. We have a large stock. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Ben Davis** (S)—Medium early; berries are large and likely to be very nearly round in shape; flavor is good and desirable; vines are excellent growers, and make about the desired number of plants. A new variety of great promise. Do not slight so good a variety because of the name—Ben Davis. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Missouri** (S)—A dark-to-light colored berry, very healthy; a good plant maker and a splendid pollinizer. By some this variety is not very highly spoken of, but the past season we fruited a quantity of Missouri and found it far better than was expected. The exceedingly heavy crop of large, delicious berries attracted much notice from all who visited the field. It is certainly worthy of a place among our best varieties. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Excelsior** (S)—Very early; one of the very best of the extra-early class; fruit is of a very dark red, good size, a good shipper, very popular; vines are thrifty and make a good number of plants; not quite so sweet as Michel's Early, but otherwise is far superior. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Clyde** (S)—Mid-season variety; large, round, good yielder; thrifty vines. One of the very best for home use or near market, not a good shipper; very well liked. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Glen Mary** (S)—Fruit is large, firm, dark red, and of very good quality; vines are of a beautiful dark green, sturdy and vigorous grower; very hardy and reliable; medium to late. This variety will pollinize itself but has not sufficient pollen for neighboring plants; by some it is classed as imperfect (P). Glen Mary should be in every commercial field. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Heritage** (S)—Early to medium and continues to a late variety; it probably has a longer season than any other variety. A new variety from New Jersey. It will be one of the few extra good varieties. The berries are dark crimson to the center, firm and of good flavor, and very large through the entire season; vines are very luxuriant and of good size. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Crescent** (P)—An old standard by which all other varieties have been judged for years; by many it is preferred to Warfield, which it excels, except, possibly, in color; however, its color is good. One of the very heaviest yielders. Ripens evenly its great crops of medium size berries, which hold out well in size during entire season; a good plant maker; healthy. Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Bubach** (P)—Fruit large and handsome, roundish to conical, bright scarlet in color, moderately firm, of good quality; plant is a strong grower, with



large, healthy, dark green foliage and very productive. Requires a rich, heavily inclined soil; very desirable for home use or near market; an old stand-by, and is always in demand because of its size, color, productiveness, and fine appearance; makes the required number of plants for a desirable row. We set Uncle Jim with Bubach and have a great pair. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.60; 1,000, \$3.20.

**Marshall (S)**—A splendid, large, showy berry; early to medium late; its first great quality is size, but it is not its last and only one. Berry is rich and delicious; foliage large and rather dark. This berry requires extra good soil and care, and it will take all prizes. It is a general favorite among fancy growers; by some said to be the largest berry grown. The slouch would better leave it alone, but it will pay well for care, and we believe fancy growers should give it a trial. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Wm. Belt (S)**—One of the very best of the large, medium-late to late berries; plant is thick and stocky; healthy and a vigorous grower; of a beautiful dark green color. An excellent pollinizer. Berries are large, bright, deep scarlet; some are cox-combed, but most of them are flat-conical and of a deep flesh-pink in color. Does well on almost any soil. A fine sort for fancy trade, either for home or shipping. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Marie (P)**—If this variety were as firm as Brandywine we should say that it was the best variety for all purposes grown. We prefer it to Senator Dunlap, and regard it next to Jewel for all purposes and dependability. Berries are large, round as an orange, and very even in size, and of a dark, bright red color peculiar to them alone. Very productive and showy. Makes a desirable number of plants, and vines are exceptionally deep-rooted. Foliage resembles Aroma. Medium to late. A money maker. We have never had any fault found with Marie. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.75; 1,000, \$3.25.

**Nick Ohmer (S)**—Medium to late, a very popular variety with large commercial growers, and deservedly so. Berries are of a beautiful carmine in color, large, very firm, and of an unusually delicious flavor. Fruit stems are long, making picking very easy; vines are very dark green in color, rank and sturdy, making the desirable number of plants. A fine shipper, and very desirable for home use or near market. When crated it always presents a fine, waxy appearance. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Tennessee Prolific (S)**—A grand berry, one of the best market sorts; good shipper; succeeds almost everywhere; vigorous plant and exceedingly productive of large, bright, showy fruit. Season medium to late. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Klondike (S)**—Medium in south, but late from Ohio river north. Fruit large-size, mottled red color, fair quality; roundish in shape, melting, and delicious, can not be beaten for home use or near market; makes requisite number of plants for a good row; resem-

bles somewhat the nature of Clyde but the berry is firmer and is darker and richer in color; vines are inclined to be small, thus the fruit is very showy. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25, 1,000, \$2.50.

**Bederwood (S)**—Season medium; vines hardy, vigorous growers, making a fine row; berries are of medium size though not very dark in color; round and borne well up from the ground; enormously productive and not very susceptible to frost; last season this variety out-yielded Senator Dunlap with us. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Early Michel (S)**—Extra early and always bears when other varieties are badly frosted. This has never failed to produce in this locality. After first two or three pickings the fruit runs small; well colored and of a delicious flavor; a good plant-maker and an excellent pollinizer. Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Rough Rider (S)**—Quite late and very productive; vigorous grower; of good color; well liked for market or home use. A descendant of Gandy, so is a good shipper. Price—100, 50c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Sharpless (S)**—Late; good, old, and well liked for home or market; berries odd in shape; productive; vines are vigorous and healthy. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Cardinal (P)**—Large, dark red, roundish, and of good flavor; vines healthy and hustlers. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Pocomoke (S)**—Medium to late; berry is large, round and conical; firm and a good shipper; ranks as a shipper with Brandywine. Stands drouth well; roots deep; healthy, good-growing foliage. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

**Seaford (P)**—A good strong grower and productive of large, dark red, good-quality, and attractive fruit; a good variety; mid-season. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$3.

**Splendid (S)**—Plant luxuriant and a strong grower; fruit large, red, and desirable for either home or market; mid-season. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**August Luther (S)**—Very early, good-size fruit; bright red in color, firm, and of good quality. Popular with many for early market. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.50.

**Bisel (P)**—Blossoms pistillate; plant healthy, vigorous grower; has long, matted roots which enable it to withstand severe drouths; fruit is large, luscious, and firm; seeds are slightly embedded; deep red color and glossy with a double calyx. About same season as Crescent. Very productive. In fact, we feel that this meagre description hardly does the variety justice. However, bare, plain truth is enough said. About as fine a field of strawberries as the writer ever saw was Bisel mated with Bederwood and Brandywine, which was on good soil and was a sight to behold. The variety has almost every requisite of a perfect berry. Resembles Warfield, only a little larger. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.



# OUR PERSONAL LETTER TO EVERY READER OF OUR CATALOGUE.

JANUARY 1, 1912.

DEAR READER : Now that you have our catalogue we wish also to have you read Our Personal Letter. Perhaps it will help you to make up your mind to venture in the strawberry industry; and, let us add, too, that if you do so and are careful, observant, and a hustler, you will find pleasure and profit also. The strawberry, you know, is "king of all small fruits", and deservedly so. But how does it happen that we wish to bother you at this time with a personal letter? Why not wait awhile?

For those reasons we inclose the letter in our catalogue. It is becoming very common to all nursery people to occasionally drop a word of entreaty or encouragement to all prospective customers who call for a catalogue. Some firms do not stop with one letter, but follow with another, and with post-cards, and some even with stamped envelopes for your reply. Now, that is costly. Time, stationery, stamps to thousands count up fast. You must, however pay the bill if you purchase their plants. Yes, the extra must be paid for.

To be plain and frank, we can not afford to do so importunate a business on the prices we quote, so we put our Personal Letter (only the one) in our catalogue. and it goes straight home to our customers without extra cost, labor, or postage. You would be surprised to know what we save in mailing out to the thousands that respond to advertisements as run in the papers.

Then, too, did you notice how unpretentious our advertisement was beside many of those run in the papers? Advertising costs. There we save another great item.

Our prices are straight — no premiums nor side-issues to entice our customers; because, if we were to give discounts, premiums, etc., they must be paid for, so we save again and use all alike. These are many others we could point out — small items, all — but they count in a large business.

Our plants are all dug from one-year-old unfertilized beds. Rows are taken up entire, plants are protected in sacks or closed boxes and taken to the packing house, where they are sorted (all small and undesirable plants, also mother-plants, are discarded) and tied in bundles of twenty-five and packed immediately in crates and baskets, with plenty of moss and hurried to the express train.

All our plants are raised on soil with a virgin fertility which gives them vitality; and should they be unduly exposed they are thus able to withstand the stress without serious loss or damage.

Then, too, we are "Strawberry Specialists". Strawberry culture is our vocation, and we give it our time and thought. We know of nurserymen who are manufacturers, diversified farmers on a large scale, merchants, butchers, insurance men, etc. Now, we believe that in this age of specialization we must have a degree or so the advantage in being "specialists".

Now, we do not claim to be the best firm in the strawberry-nursery business, but we do claim to be one of them; and as we desire to make a position distinctively and positively our own, we ask you to carefully consider what we have to offer, and remember that we guarantee our plants to be as good as grown anywhere — not for the money, but for any price — and we feel confident that, should you intrust your order to us, you will be treated squarely and to our mutual advantage.

Awaiting your orders with best wishes and kindest regards, we are yours, truly,

J. G. PRESTAGE & CO., Allegan, Mich.

Remember that "Prestage's plants have Prestige".



**Jewel (S)**—This variety comes to us from almost an unknown source, as we have had it in stock for some time, but had never fruited it till two years ago when some of our friends called attention to the "most delicious berry in the patch". Then we stood up and took notice. Some very experienced berry-growers persisted that it was Senator Dunlap but were easily convinced to the contrary and in favor of the Jewel when shown to a plot of Dunlap. Plants are very healthy, never rust, and are very large and of the same color and serrated nearly the same as Dunlap; but when under comparison the plant proves stockier and larger than Dunlap; makes a rather thick row, generally needs thinning to insure the best fruit specimens; fruit is large, round, though somewhat elongated, and very dark red, making it very desirable for canning purposes. Fruit is more firm than Dunlap, consequently fine for home use, near, or distant market. In flavor it is equal to the best and is very sweet and melting. Our stock is limited. Price—100, 70c; 500, \$1.75; 1,000, \$3.50.

**Ernie (S)**—This variety originated in southwestern Michigan and is one of the best ever introduced for canning or market purposes. It is a variety that can be relied upon to produce a good crop of medium to large berries. The fruit is even darker than Warfield, especially when grown on rich soil; is of a glossy, rich color and resembles Warfield in shape but is more firm, having a very tough skin which makes it an excellent shipper. It will hold up in good condition longer after ripe than any berry we have ever tried. Its flavor is sweet, yet tart enough to be the very best of canners. People to whom we have sold Ernie to can want nothing else—prefer it even to Dunlap, Warfield, Pride of Michigan, Nick Omer, and other leaders. It begins to ripen with Warfield but lasts from one to two weeks longer; have sold them with Aroma, Sample, and Gandy. The vines are healthy and of a dark, glossy color and make about the right kind of matted row. Has very stiff stems and holds fruit well up from the ground; will withstand frost better than many varieties. There was only one objection to this variety, and that was made by the pickers, as it was prone to cling to the vines, also to the hulls. However, it is and must be the favorite of our family for canning and preserving purposes. Price—100, 60c; 500, \$1.50; 1,000, \$3.

#### MIXED PLANTS FOR A GOOD CROP.

We have many "odds and ends" left over when packing, and always some when digging, that are good plants. They are of many varieties both (P) and (S), and are just the right mixture for a garden plot. We also have heretofore found that many large growers prefer a plot of mixed varieties, claiming that they have done better in many cases than straight kinds. Many times such plants will contain many of the newest and best varieties. Plants mixed in this way are always heavy croppers. Our price is very reason-

able.. Price—100, 40c; 500, \$1.25; 1,000, \$2.

**Varieties**—We feel that we have far too many different varieties, as we have listed 60 in our catalogue of which we have a very large supply. However, we have about as many more, but many of them are short in stock this year, so we do not think it wise to list them, as we are likely to over-sell. Again, some of these varieties are only in our testing plots, and, as we have been changing our stock from one farm to another, we think it wise to run no risk of disappointing any of our customers. It, however, is our aim to be head-quarters and authority on every variety grown. Yet, as stated above, we feel that there are far too many varieties. Yet, when we have calls for a certain kind that is not generally planted it is a pleasure to be able to satisfy every customer. So we are about to keep the plan of keeping only about 50 to 75 of the leaders in good stock, and to keep a testing plot of the others, that we can advise for setting only those that are desirable; for, we repeat again, **there are far too many varieties.**

We feel that, for the average grower, from six to eight leading kinds will cover every interval of the berry-ripening season, and, too, that it is best for each grower to "try out" to a certain extent for himself just what is best suited to his needs. Then, too, some of the new varieties must prove very desirable, and many so much so that, from time to time, it will pay a grower to take on a new variety and discard the weaker of the old sorts. A good rule is "Be not the first by whom the new is tried,

Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

**Pictures and descriptions**—Some people and customers tell us our catalogue is not complete without a few pictures, etc. However, we decided to leave them out entirely and to keep our descriptions within the natural conditions and exact truths as they appear to us, concerning each berry. We have in the past purchased plants of nearly every berry nursery in the country, and we have found that pictures and glowing descriptions are the source of much disappointment, especially when one sees in a catalogue pictures of prize-winning stock and grain and great records of what a certain strain of plants has accomplished; and when, upon receipt of plants from those sources, find they are not nearly so good as, and do no better than, plants that were purchased of a man issuing a cheap and modest little catalogue. Such a disappointment is keen indeed, because, by glowing descriptions and over-drawn pictures one is led to expect too much. It is our aim to have our catalogue and plants both within good sense; and while it would be false and unbecoming to claim that our plants are superior to others, we do claim that ours are equal to any grown, no matter what claims are made in high-sounding language to the contrary.



## OUR CATALOGUE.

Is small, as cheaply gotten up as possible; in fact, in all of our business we aim to curtail all unnecessary expense that we may offer the advantage thus gained to our customers, both in quality and quantity of our plants.

### A FEW HINTS ON GROWING STRAWBERRY PLANTS.

We gladly would give you in this little book every turn and need that strawberry-growing calls for and that is needed for one to be successful in the business, if it were deemed necessary; but almost everyone today reads one good farm paper or more (or should do so) so we deem it unnecessary.

However, we shall insert a few of the more practical and essential points of strawberry culture for those who have been unsuccessful or are just beginning.

First to be considered is the soil. Usually good corn or potato ground will produce a good crop of strawberries; but, as the strawberry requires a large percentage of water, and ripens at a time when drouth may be expected, and is also of more value than the ordinary farm or garden crop, more attention must be given to the physical condition of the soil. A sandy loam that is retentive of moisture, properly plowed (which we think is seven to ten inches in depth) and of sufficient fertility, will with proper cultivation retain sufficient moisture for more than the ordinary drouth.

Care must be given to drainage. All soil set to strawberries should be properly drained by natural location; but if not, care should be taken in its artificial drainage. The open ditch may be used, but it is at once antedated, expensive, and not so good as tile drain. If land to be set to strawberries needs draining, use tile drain; it will pay for itself in one season.

Fertility of the soil is probably the greatest secret in the success of good crops—that is, taking soil generally. Soil with an inherent fertility is preferable by all means, but light or poor soil can, by proper rotation of crops, cultivation, and fertilizing, be made to be profitable. Some of the leading strawberry-plant firms in the United States are raising plants and good fruit on made soil. In this respect we are blest, as our soil is naturally fertile, and a little care and wise provision preserves in our soil a virgin fertility. Plowing under of green crops (such as rye, cow-peas, sand-vetch, clover, etc.) is a first step to be taken in maintaining fertility. When obtainable, barnyard manure is preferable, with us, to every other fertilizer. Manure, however, should not be applied green, so that it comes in contact with the roots of plants, or used so as to endanger the retention of moisture in time of drouth. For berry crops a good way is to mulch with fresh stable manure mixed with plenty of straw.

In case it becomes necessary to use commercial fertilizer we suggest that the Agricultural colleges and experiment stations be consulted on the sub-

ject. However, any fertilizer rich in nitrogen rather than potash is preferable. Nitrate of soda in small quantities is sometimes used. The fertilizer should be sown broadcast or by drill, on plowed ground, and well harrowed in.

### FROSTY LOCATIONS.

All locations that are inclined to be frosty should be avoided, as low lands near lakes, swamps, etc., are unprofitable for any fruit. A location that is high and dry and will permit circulation of air is to be preferred.

### PLANTING.

In the country south of the fortieth parallel, fall planting is sometimes advantageous, but to the north of said parallel we can not advise any one to set plants in the fall. We deem it a waste of time and energy. Of course, it has its advantages. Spring is the natural time for planting, which can be begun in March and continued through April; but finish as soon as possible after May 1.

The ground should be thoroughly prepared—plowed and harrowed till in a fine condition. Then use a good, heavy roller to firm and settle soil. The ground is then ready for a marker. Make small, shallow marks as straight as possible, about four feet apart. Some prefer three feet eight inches. We have found a small hand-marker, handled and drawn by one man to be very efficient. Choose a day, if possible, when there is little wind and just after a light shower. Do not expose the roots of plants to sun and atmosphere, not for a moment. Carry plants in a basket well covered; or, a better way, if the air is too drying, is to set plants from a pail of water.

To set plants properly and with least exposure, a man using a spade precedes the man with the plants, making a hole deep enough to permit all roots to be well straightened and scattered. The hole should not be made too wide for fear the earth will not be properly pressed to the roots of the plant, both in the bottom of the hole and at the surface. Take care not to set plants with the crown below surface, as it is dangerous to the plant. Be sure that the plant is not set too shallow, as this exposes roots and is sure death also. Neither too deep nor too shallow—is an important feature in strawberry planting.

### CULTIVATION.

Start the hoe and the cultivator within four or five days after setting, and keep it up every nine to ten days all through the growing season. Do not permit a weed to grow in the field. A good way to previously rid a field of weeds is: The season before setting to strawberries, plow in March, harrow down, and let lie for some time, until the weed seeds have had a chance to germinate; then harrow and work thoroughly, and follow with a crop of beans, potatoes, or late-drilled corn. Keep crop well worked, and your field is at once in good condition for the following year's strawberry field.

Do not be afraid to use a hoe, and



then use it again. Use for horse cultivating a fine-tooth Planet Junior garden cultivator. Now, don't let your vigilance relax in caring for the field after you have it planted. Give it good care and you will be proud of your crop and success.

### MULCHING.

Some very successful plant-growers do not mulch, but we consider it as the fitting climax to our summer's work. That is, we can not afford, after having given the strawberry field excellent care all summer, to run the risk of damage through the winter and spring. It is worth the trouble and expense, especially if land is prone to heave by freezing and thawing. For this, long straw, chaff, and stable manure mixed with plenty of straw, buckwheat straw, or corn fodder may be used. We use considerable rye straw, sowing the rye in the cornfield in August and cutting the following spring in time to plant to some late crop. Corn may be broadcasted in May, two bushels to the acre, mowed with a machine, and makes excellent mulch. Some one suggested the sowing of oats in the row of plants, about the middle of August, claiming that they will make sufficient mulch. We have not tried it, however.

### PROFITS IN STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

No one need be told of the enormous profits the last few years have brought in the line of this fruit. If you have "corned and hogged it" and it is slow, try the strawberry for both pleasure and profit. It grows from Cape Horn to Alaska. Seek advice, and begin with a small field and keep persistently at it, and your strawberries will raise the mortgage and make you independent.

One man of whom we know, with 280 acres of land, became discouraged with general farming, and upon advice tried four acres of strawberries to start with; and, though twenty-four miles from market, he has in a few years grown another smile. When his berries were ready for harvest his wife and daughter superintended the picking and packing for shipment, and he took his team and lumber wagon to the city. He was his own salesman. He met every train that brought him berries, with more enthusiasm, till now he grows thirty acres and finds no great trouble in caring for them—and is out of debt.

To the man with a small farm the opportunities to make money are many in strawberries. However, one who cannot keep a field of corn or potatoes clean, would better make a new resolution before he begins with strawberries. It depends upon the man.

### VERY IMPORTANT.

When plants are received, if your ground is not ready or the weather is dry and windy, do not set out, but take them from the package, cut the band around each bunch, loosen nicely, and heel them in moist soil; firm

the soil around the roots; and if dry, water with rainwater and shade them from the sun and they will commence to grow. When your ground is ready and weather favorable, plant out. If pains are taken in handling plants in this way, scarcely a plant should fail to grow.

**Request**—Should this little booklet fall into the hands of one who is not interested, it will be a favor indeed if it be handed to some one who may be interested in strawberries. Thanks in advance to any one who may be so kind. We shall be glad to reciprocate the favor if you will only give us the opportunity.

**(S) and (P) Varieties**—Those varieties that are marked (P) are pistillate, imperfect blossoms, or female blossoms, and require a variety marked (S), staminate or male, set near them for a pollinizer, as staminates are perfect blossoms. Staminate varieties will, however, thrive and produce crops if not planted near pistillates. A great many growers call the staminates "self-fertilizers or pollinizers" as in fact they are, and some prefer to set only the staminate varieties, claiming they will stand more frost than pistillate. But all (P) pistillate varieties should have staminates set every third or fourth row to insure perfect pollinization.

### TESTIMONIALS—READ THEM.

Bartlesville, Okla., May 18, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir—Received the Senator Dunlap plants, 5—18, and must say they are fine.

Yours Respectfully, Wm. A. Souere.

—o—

Dorr, Mich., May 11, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.:

We received plants before your card came. Am very much pleased with them. They were in good condition and were certainly large, fine ones. Thanks for the extra plants. Yours respectfully, Sophia E. Treat.

—o—

West Middlesex, Pa., May 2, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—My plants came all right and in good condition. **They were fine.** You ought to see how fast they grow. We have not lost one of them. I am so glad that we found so good a firm to deal with, and shall remember you in the future. Sincerely yours, Chas. C. Turner, Box 98.

—o—

Furgate's Hill, Virginia, May 3, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—I received the plants, after a three-week's delay, on April 29. They were in very good condition, not over a dozen dead ones in the lot. I am well pleased with them. Sincerely, Dr. J. O. Meade.

—o—

Pleasant Lake, Ind., May 2 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—Your inquiry at hand. My plants came all right and were as nice ones as I ever got anywhere. I don't see how you sell them so cheap. I got plants of Kellogg Co. this year, no



better than yours, at about double your price. Respectfully yours, Orla Hoffman.

Cincinnati, Ohio, April 17, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—The 10,000 plants came this morning. I have just finished unpacking them. I wish to say that they are a great lot of plants. I have tried many firms, but this order has more satisfaction in it than any I have ever received. My brother is here from Indianapolis (Ind.) and he says that he shall order from you in the future. I had to divide a few with him. Shall do you all the good we can.

Most truly, A. L. Fenlon.

Pueblo, Colo., May 17, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—My order of 5,000 Ernie and Brandywine came last week. Have had many plants from the east but these are the finest of all. Thanks for the extras. Sincerely,

L. P. Schmidt.

Lake City, Iowa, May, 1911.

J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—My plants have arrived O. K. Never saw nicer ones. Respectfully yours, Rev. J. D. McCord. (Mr. McCord placed a large order in November, 1911, for spring of 1912.—J. G. Prestage.)

Benzonia, Mich., May 12, 1911.

Mr. J. G. Prestage, Allegan, Mich.,

Dear Sir:—I received those plants all O. K. Respectfully yours,

Fred Arner.

**We Could** fill this little catalogue many times with such testimonials, but must stop for want of space. We are always pleased to hear from any order, and when our customers sit down and drop us a line regarding the receipt of plants we feel that we have done someone a favor and received one in return. We hope that those who receive plants and are not satisfied will (**kindly**) let us know, that we may find the fault; and if our own, that we may rectify the same. Last season we had only one voluntary complaint, and it came from our own state. Yes, let us hear from your order. It makes us better acquainted and satisfied.

**Prices**—Our prices are a little higher than in the past, but are yet far below those who are noted for expensive catalogues. We curtail every expense, and save that amount to our customers in price of plants; and we feel that, with labor costing more, higher cost of living, and better prices for fruit and all farm products, we must charge the advance to make any profit whatever. We employ the best possible help and pay them good wages, so as to have only reliable work done. We do not try, nor desire, to compete with some plant-producers of our country; but, after we have investigated, neither should we purchase plants of them, because of the **cheap** help they employ. Several plant deal-

ers say to "Beware of the \$2 and \$3 per 1,000 man". We wish to say that, conscientiously, we can produce good plants, well and carefully grown on some of the best fruit, corn, and grain land of Michigan, for our prices, **No less**; and we do not care what others say. If you are in doubt, use our references and testimonials, or we can refer you farther if you desire.

**No reduction or cut** in prices given below, except in 10,000 lots. Write for particulars.

Variety	100	500	1,000
Variety	100	500	1,000
Blaine (S)	60c	\$1.50	\$3.00
Mayflower (S)	40c	1.25	2.50
Greenville (P)	50c	1.25	2.50
Buster (P)	60c	1.50	3.00
Michigan (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Steven's Late Cham-			
pion (S)	75c	1.75	3.25
Dickey (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Senator Dunlap (S)	40c	1.25	2.25
Kellogg's Pride of			
Michigan (S)	75c	1.65	3.25
Parson's Beauty (S)	75c	1.50	3.00
Morning Star (P)	50c	1.25	2.50
Abington (S)	60c	1.40	2.80
Fairfield (S)	60c	1.25	2.50
Parker Earle (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Highland (P)	60c	1.60	3.20
St. Louis (S)	40c	1.25	2.50
New York (S)	60c	1.50	2.75
Jesse (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Haverland (P)	50c	1.25	2.50
Uncle Jim (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Miller (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Baldwin's Pride of			
Michigan (S)	50c	1.50	3.00
Ryckman (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Longfellow (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Enhance (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Ben Davis (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Ridgeway (S)	50c	1.40	2.80
Kitty Rice (P)	50c	1.40	2.80
Virginia (P)	50c	1.50	3.00
Aroma (S)	50c	\$1.25	\$2.50
Warfield (P)	40c	1.25	2.00
Sample (P)	60c	1.50	3.00
Gandy (S)	50c	1.25	2.25
Brandywine (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Norwood (S)	75c	2.00	3.50
Missouri (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Excelsior (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Clyde (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Glen Mary (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Heritage (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Crescent (P)	40c	1.25	2.50
Bubach (P)	60c	1.60	3.20
Marshall (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Wm. Belt (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Marie (P)	60c	1.75	3.25
Nick Ohmer (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Tennessee Prolific (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Klondike (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Bederwood (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Early Michel (S)	40c	1.00	2.50
Rough Rider (S)	50c	1.25	2.50
Sharpless (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Cardinal (P)	60c	1.50	3.00
Pocomoke (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Seaford (P)	60c	1.50	3.00
Splendid (S)	60c	1.25	2.50
August Luther (S)	60c	1.25	2.50
Bisel (P)	60c	1.50	3.00
Jewel (S)	70c	1.70	3.50
Ernie (S)	60c	1.50	3.00
Mixed Plants	40c	1.25	2.00



## Order Sheet.

191 ---

**J. G. PRESTAGE & CO., Allegan, Mich.**

**Send the following order:**

To (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

Postoffice \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

EXPRESS OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

TO BE SHIPPED (date) \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

Mail.	Ex.	Ft.
-------	-----	-----

AMOUNT ENCLOSED, \$\_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



## Strawberry Plants Free.

Write below the names and P. O. address of a few of your friends who will likely need plants and we will send them this catalogue. If they send us an order for plants we will send you free (your selection) plants for your trouble, amount according to size of orders received. We would do as much for you. Will you do as much for us?

[illegible]